THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

More Repayment to IMF by India

1164. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Telegraph, Calcutta of 20th February, 1990 to the effect that India is repaying more to IMF; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of loan taken from IMF is fixed in terms of SDRs and as is the practice with loans designated in foreign currencies|SDR, the same amount has to be repaid in foreign currency|SDR. If the value of foreign currency|SDR rises in terms of rupees, it is to be expected that repayment will be more in rupee terms.

Utilisation of Services of Basata to Boost Exports to EEC Countries

1165. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British and South Asian Trade Association has offered its services to the Indian businessmen for increasing exports to the ECE countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilise the services of BASATA to boost exports to EEC countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) No specific offer has been made by BASATA to Indian businessmen for increasing exports to EEC countries. However, meetings were held in the month of January, 1990 with some members of a visiting delegation from BASATA, which has a Memorandum of Understanding with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The issues that were discussed at these meetings, *inter-alia,* included the question of expansion of bilateral trade, as well as trade with third countries. In very general terms, the support of the British organisation was reiterated in this regard.

Utilisation of Foreign Exchange by the Leading Trade Promotion Bodies

1166 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that trade promotion and market research activities undertaken by several leading trade promotion bodies suffer from serious overlapping efforts resulting in ineffective utilisation of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, what are the areas of overlapping functions undertaken by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Trade Development Authority and Trade Fair Authority and Export Promotion Councils during the last two years; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to merge some of these bodies into a single trade promotion body and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Trade promotion and market research activities carried out by the various trade promotion bodies are finalised by the Ministry to avoid overlaps. The Annual programme of action for the

Trade Development Authority and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade which are organisations involved in market research as well as trade promotion activities are finalised by the Ministry of Commerce after studying the individual programmes of each organisation. As the Trade Fair Authority of India is not engaged in market research, while being engaged in promotion of exports through trade fairs, its Annual Plan of Action is finalised by the Ministry through the meetings of the Exhibition Advisory Committee where the Export Promotion Councils other Trade Bodies and Trade Development Authority are also represented. This helps to avoid overlaps.

(c) There is no such proposals at present under the consideration of the Government.

Amendment in the Import Policy

1167. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some amendments in the Import Policy for the import of photographic goods and equipments; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) As the forthcoming Import and Export Policy, to be effective from -st April, 1990 is still under formulation, it is premature to provide any detail at this stage.

Policy of Liberalisation by Banks

1168. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any liberalisation is being considered by banks relating to advances against shares; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of such liberalisation?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Reserve Bank of India are not considering at present any proposal to liberalise the norms for granting advances against shares

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Personal Banking Centres

1169. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Personal Banking Centres' are being set up by public sector banks;

(b) if so, what services and facilities are to be offered by such centres; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the deteriorating services to customers in public sector banks?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Some public sector banks have set up "Personal Banking Centres" or "Personal and Services Banking Divisions". Different services are offered herein by different banks. These may include professional advisory and counselling services to individual customers and fixing up banking facilities for them at identified branches and offer of all banking facilities for the personal segment.

(c) Public sector banks have taken various measures to improve the service rendered by them to their customers. These measures include evoluation of time norms for rendering common services, setting up of "May I Help You" counters in bigger branches, speedier clearance and collection of cheques through computerisation of clearing houses and increased use of courier service, extending to individuals the facility of immediate credit of outstation cheques upto Rs. 2500, payment of interest at savings bank rate for delayed